A

SERMON

Preache[illegible] Church of

REIGATE in SURRY,

On THURSDAY, the 5th of MAY, 1763.

Being the Day Appointed for a

GENERAL THANKSGIVING

TO

ALMIGHTY GOD, for putting an END to the late Bloody and Expenſive WAR.

By WILLIAM STEAD, M. A.

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PROVERBS XVI. 33.

The lot is caſt into the lap; but the whole diſpoſing thereof is of the Lord.

IN theſe words the Royal preacher delivers his ſenſe of the divine ſuperintendence and direction of all events, even the moſt minute. And our Sovereign cannot be ſuppoſed to intend leſs, by the command which has aſſembled us together in this place, on this occaſion. And it were

uncharitable to believe, that any perſon here preſent, entertains any ſentiments different from thoſe of the Preacher and the King; or, that he joins unwillingly in paying to Heaven the juſt tribute of praiſe and thankſgiving, for the happy return of the bleſſing of Peace we are met to celebrate.

To men, ſo diſpoſed, it cannot be unacceptable to give a ſlight opening of the bleſſings naturally attending Peace; to point out its benign tendency and happy influence; and to recommend, ſo it be done with the modeſty that becomes us, the conduct fit to be held by thoſe who wiſh, and would deſerve, the ſtability and permanency of it.

"The beginning of ſtrife, ſays Solomon, is as when "one letteth out water;" the aperture in the mound may, at firſt, be ſmall and trifling; but, if this be wantonly or unſkilfully made, the unremarked weight of the ſuperincumbent water, may tear it to ſuch dimenſions as to admit the whole to ruſh out with ſo dangerous an impetuoſity, as to ſpread terror and inundation through the inoffenſive country.

And ſuch are the beginnings of ſtrife. And at no period, and in no country, has this truth been ſo remarkably exemplified, as it has been in Europe in theſe times. The intereſts of the Princes are ſo blended and complicated, their connexions, by blood and alliance, ſo various and mutual; their rights and claims ſo embarraſſed and unaſcertained; their guarranties ſo numerous and reciprocal, and, may we add, their deſires and ambition ſo alert and graſping,

ing, that no ſtrife can ariſe, even about the leaſt and moſt remote corners of their territories, but, by the inevitable influx of the ſurrounding powers, the torrent of War is ſoon ſwelled to ſuch height and ſtrength, as to ſhake their dominions to the very foundations. So that it is impoſſible for a ſyſtem, compoſed of parts ſo diſcordant, whoſe bearings and dependencies are ſo nice and intricate, to ſubſiſt, certainly not ſo to ſubſiſt, as to afford the comfort and ſecurity which ſociety was framed to adminiſter, without the ſalutary virtue of Peace.

THIS calls off the attention of the Princes from adverting too ſcrupulouſly to what they call their Rights; calms their reſentments, and quiets the ruder and more boiſterous paſſions. And, perhaps, in this ſtill ſerenity, the voice of the liberal arts may be heard, which are inceſſantly calling on thoſe who have the power of cultivating them, and never fail of being liſtened to by every generous mind, when not loſt and confounded in the din of War. And then may the active and magnanimous ſpirits innocently ſpend themſelves in works of ſplendor and magnificence; the narrow and contracted, in hoarding what they can legally accumulate, for to extortion and rapacity the ſeaſon of Peace affords no colourable pretence; and the milder and humane will rejoice in the godlike employment of adminiſtering juſtice, introducing politeneſs, and diffuſing happineſs through all their dominions. And then will the ſubjects, when uninterrupted by the ambition, temerity, or caprice of their

reſpective Princes (for God knows, the welfare of ſociety but too much depends on the diſpoſition and employment of theſe) mutually conſpire in ſpreading the bleſſings of ſcience and commerce amongſt them; and in ſecuring and enjoying thoſe Rights, and that happineſs, to which God and nature has entitled humanity.

To men, living under the influence of the great truth held forth in the text, it may not be improper to offer this conſideration; that while "The lot is in the lap," no man can foreſee what "the diſpoſing of it" may be. And when the lot is the terrible lot of War, every thinking mind muſt be agitated with doubt and anxiety. And, as it is to be feared, there is no nation in Europe, whoſe crimes will not reconcile to the ideas of juſtice its utter exciſion, the wiſeſt men during the ſuſpenſion of the event, may be allowed to entertain the moſt ſerious apprehenſions. And as the manners of a whole people, are an object too large to be perfectly comprehended, and exactly weighed, when once the "Sword of the Lord is gone forth," who ſhall pronounce whether it is for correction or extirpation? But the return of Peace diſpels this doubt and uncertainty, and reſtores order and ſerenity to the minds of men; and they may humbly hope, either that the merit of the nation is more than the Eſtimates made of it exhibit; or that God, for reaſons inſcrutable to human penetration, is pleaſed to be gracious and propitious to his people.

At the ſame time it is a comfortable Reflexion, to conſider, that the manner in which the War has been conducted has a natural

a natural tendency, in the ordinary courſe of things, to make the Peace that has ſucceeded, firm and durable. The original cauſe of the War, was, ſo far as I underſtandit, on our part, fairly conformable to the ſtricteſt ideas of juſtice; and we have proſecuted it, through all its operations, with a fortitude and perſeverance that amazed the world. The ſpirit of this nation —— will it be a digreſſion to do juſtice here to a citizen, who inconteſtably ſtands firſt in that ſmall liſt of patriots, whom Providence, at certain intervals, ſends into the world to ſave a ſtate? For that ſeaſon of deſpondency ſhould not be forgot, when "all faces were turned into paleneſs," and it was generally thought, and, I believe, ſaid, there was not virtue enough left to ſave the nation. At this ſeaſon, whether touched by the eternal ſpirit, or prompted by the Generoſity of his own Nature, this citizen aroſe, and put himſelf at the head of a deſpairing people. And the ſpirit of the nation (to reſume what I left) ſoon underwent ſo total a change, as aſtoniſhed even thoſe that felt it. When the largeneſs of his views (which marked the maſter) when the ſteadineſs of his meaſures, the firmneſs of his reſolution, and the fortitude of his mind were remarked, the generous infection ſpread through all ranks, and every man became a thouſand. So that the expreſſions of their valour are ſo deeply impreſſed in all quarters of the world, that time itſelf ſhall ſcarce efface them. And their humanity and generoſity, the certain attendants of true courage, even in the height of the ſtorm of War, have been ſuch

as

as would have done honour to the beſt of the high poliſhed Greeks, or generous Romans. And their moderation, even in the pride of victory, muſt deſerve, from all Europe, the fulleſt acknowledgment and confeſſion that they are a magnanimous people.

For theſe reaſons, I think it may be preſumed, that no nation will wantonly inſult a people of this character; and from the equity and good faith, for which this nation is confeſſedly remarkable, it is probable we ſhall not give them any juſt occaſion.

But I ſeem to hear ſome, ſcarce articulate, murmurs, as if the Peace we rate ſo high were not indeed what we repreſent it; but rather inadequate to the expence of blood and treaſure with which we have purchaſed it, and diſhonourable to the nation.

Would you then have more war? "Shall the ſword devour for ever? Knoweſt thou not that it will be bitterneſs in the latter end?" It is mighty eaſy for a man, in a warm commodious apartment in the midſt of the abundance of all things, and fenced, in full ſecurity, with the protection of a well-ordered government, to raiſe ſpeculations, ſettle the balance between the contending powers, and determine on another campaign, with the ſame eaſe and unconcern as he orders his coffee. But let your imagination tranſport you, for a moment, into thoſe countries which have been the ſcenes of the War. Obſerve how the ſubſiſtence of innumerable innocent families, every ſocial and domeſtic joy, has been ruined and deſtroyed by the brutal ravages

vages of an inſolent ſoldiery! See the havock of War, the carnage of a battle, and the fields ſtreaming with Engliſh blood! Go to the hoſpital of the camp; and ſee the gallant youth of England waſting to a ſlower, but not leſs, certain death, under wounds unheeded in the hour of ardor, and for want of thoſe accommodations, and that attendance which the meaneſt of your ſervants would call ſcanty and inhuman! Then look at home. Mark the gaps made in the ranks of your citizens: and obſerve how there is ſcarce a family that is not mourning the loſs of ſome of its branches, which it held moſt dear, that have fallen in the ſervice of their country, honourably, indeed, but how tenderly regretted; inſomuch, that even the joy of the preſent feſtivity is imperfect, and interrupted by "the noiſe of the weeping of the people." Not to mention that all theſe calamities have been brought by Chriſtians on Chriſtians, who, I am afraid, will ſcarce find themſelves authoriſed, by the precepts of their religion, to exerciſe ſuch violences on each other. And do you deſire a repetition of theſe ſcenes? Humanity will with-hold you from ſo wanton a declaration.

WELL, then, it muſt be confeſſed we had not enough attended to theſe things, and Peace muſt be allowed to be a Bleſſing. But ſtill a better Peace might have been had for the ſame price at which this was purchaſed: and it is an affront to the ſenſe and reaſon of the nation, to have Rights ſo dearly earned, and acquiſitions ſo hardly made, and ſo eſſential to our well-being, given up to the enemy, by the ignorance, or villainy of our Negotiators.

It may be ſo, for ought I know: for I have no grounds on which to form a judgment in this matter: and I doubt not but when ſuch villainy is detected, and fully proved, that it will meet condign puniſhment. But it may alſo not be ſo: and if thoſe that lay the complaint, are no better informed than I am, it is probable it is not ſo. That the conceſſions of the enemy, and the conditions of the Peace, do not amount to the utmoſt our ſucceſſes in the War ſeem to intitle us to, I readily allow: but this may be owing to cauſes very different from either ignorance or villainy in the Miniſters. Examine all hiſtory, and point me out the Peace which gives the conqueror all his ſituation enabled him to demand. I am ſure our annals afford no ſuch inſtance. Or recollect your own private affairs, and tell me if, in any matter of conſequence, to which there were various parties, every circumſtance fell in with ſuch eaſe and preciſion, as to enable you to compleat the whole exactly in the manner you wiſhed. And if this cannot be done, as I am afraid it cannot, in our little concerns, how large is the allowance which candour muſt make in tranſactions of ſuch compaſs and extent, where the jarring intereſts, and inflamed paſſions of contending Princes are to be compoſed and reconciled, who bend with the laſt reluctance, to thoſe humiliating exigencies the hard neceſſity of the War has impoſed on them? This Peace ſecures to Great Britain a larger and better territory than all the Wars from the conqueſt to this day, have produced; and yet, I have allowed it to be far enough from compleat.

And

And what does this ſhew? Only this: that ſpeculative arrangements are very different things from practical Execution; and that, perhaps, the nature of human affairs will not admit of that full exactneſs, coincidence, and adjuſtment, in action, which we readily conceive in Idea. Perhaps ſome material defect, or decay, in eſſentials, known only to thoſe who touch and govern the principal ſprings of the political Machine, or ſome unaccountable perverſeneſs in the enemy, founded in rage or deſpair, unconquerable by any arguments or applications, may make it impoſſible for you to obtain even thoſe Rights to which you are unqueſtionably intitled, which would give a roundneſs and compactneſs to your ſyſtem, which you ardently wiſh for, and moſt earneſtly endeavour after. What is to be done? Will you again "caſt the lot into the lap," ſubject the whole ſtate to the chance of War, becauſe you cannot reach that point of perfection, which perhaps never was reached, and which perhaps is ſimply unattainable by mortal man? Prudence, I believe, will give other advice.

Or will it miſbecome us to apply the doctrine in the text to this great Occaſion, and to reverence, as we diſcern, the hand of Providence interpoſing, to check the inſolence of Victory, and put men in mind of their dependence, which a long courſe of ſucceſs is but too apt to make them forget?

Or may not, after all, the alledged defects in the Peace be as much owing to our own ſhort-ſightedneſs, as to the

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Or may not, after all, the alledged defects in the Peace be as much owing to our own ſhort-ſightedneſs, as to the

things themſelves? For abundant experience muſt have convinced us, that we are far from being infallible judges of our true intereſts, in affairs of ſuch extent. There muſt ſomewhere be a Line, drawn by Nature, beyond which no country can wholſomely colonize. On which ſide that Line we now are, I pretend not to ſay. But this is certain, that whenever it is tranſgreſſed, inſtead of aggrandizing, you only induce a radical decay on the Mother Country, which undermines its foundations; and when the Capital Fabric tumbles, the Colonies, though intended, perhaps, as its Props and Support, muſt inevitably be buried in the ruins.

So that every advantange, which ſeems to offer itſelf ſo obviouſly to every common obſerver, may not, when weighed in the ſcale, which the unſkilful know not how to hold, prove ſo ſalutary to their Country as the unthinking are ſo ready to pronounce.

BUT be it as it may. Still Peace may be a Bleſſing devoutly to be wiſhed. For, in eſtimates of this kind, it is not the Conditions of the Peace only, that are to be taken into the account, but the circumſtances of the Nation alſo, which may demand it. And every grievance of the War, which is pernicious to the State, muſt be allowed to be a recommendation of the Peace. And ſuch, I believe, thoſe who have thought on this ſubject, have found attending us, at this juncture: One eſpecially, which I have reſerved for this place, for your particular attention, of ſo

blaſting

blaſting a complexion, that it ſingly makes Peace, I had almoſt ſaid any Peace neceſſary.

THROUGH the ignorance, or craft, in which the ſhort-ſighted are wont to abound, of the Politicians at the Revolution, it happened, that one of the beſt maxims of ſound policy, to raiſe the ſupplies, for the expence of the year, within the year, was forgotten, or neglected. So that in the Wars, which ſoon followed, by the anticipation of the annual ſupplies, a national Debt was contracted, which leaned heavily on the beſt part of the ſubjects, the induſtrious, the commercial, and the landed, inſomuch, that even the returns of Peace brought not with them, on that account, that eaſe and refreſhment which otherwiſe naturally reſults from it. This was not unremarked by the diſcerning, at that time; but was over-ruled, by that ſtrange imagination, that I know not what kind of ſecurity ariſes to Government from its being in debt. This, by degrees, and, I ſuppoſe, for the ſame reaſons, grew into a cuſtom; till, at laſt, we find ourſelves crouching under a debt which would have aſtoniſhed our forefathers, and may be allowed to alarm us. But this is not the worſt of the malady. The wiſdom of better Politicians may correct the errors of the ignorant; and in ſome ſeaſon of Peace and ſerenity, the breaches made in the Conſtitution, by the little arts of the crafty, may be repaired by the wholeſome exertion of the abilities of a vigorous, ſound, and upright adminiſtration. But the palpable incapacity of our Financiers, in the laſt war, was ſuch, that they could not tread

even this beaten track, without expoſing their country to the depredations of the vileſt race of vermin that ever preyed on a commonwealth. The Stockjobbers, I mean; who, with the avidity of the wolves of the foreſt, have fallen on every new loan, as their proper prey; and, to the diſgrace of all government, have gone on, uninterrupted, in the exerciſe of every baſe art, every ſpecies of fraud, deceit, and circumvention, which cunning could deviſe, or villainy execute: inſomuch, that this country is thought to have ſuffered more from the machinations of theſe miſcreants, than from the preſſure of that enormous debt, which the neceſſities of the ſtate annually accumulated.

And the "Wages of their unrighteouſneſs" have been ſuch, as have aſtoniſhed thoſe who diſdained to be contaminated in this vile traffic; and induſtry has bluſhed at the ſmall progreſs to be made in the ways of honeſty, when it compared its little heap with the mountains of wealth raiſed by theſe muſhrooms of a day.

And, to ſhew the pitch this depravity has reached, we may obſerve, that even Shame, the laſt lingering guardian of integrity, which ſometimes ſupports it in minds unacquainted with better principles, even Shame is gone away; and cant terms and mock appellations have been ludicrouſly invented for practices, which, as they in truth are, ſo ought they to be called, plain knavery. But this is ever the courſe. For in morals, ridicule is the fatal ſymptom of expiring honour, and the ſure ſucceſſor of departed honeſty.

NOR is this yet the worſt. Property may be transferred, from hand to hand, even by theſe baſe arts, without endangering the being of the community. But the miſchief to be apprehended is, a total change of the Genius of the whole people, when every generous ſentiment, every feeling of humanity, all ſenſe of honour, and all regard to decorum and a character, is ſwallowed up and loſt in this raging luſt of gain.

FOR this has not been confined to the dregs of the people, but the contagion has ſpread through the moſt reſpectable ranks of the ſtate; and, to the diſgrace of the nation, we have ſeen Peers and Senators, Magiſtrates and Clergymen, ignominiouſly mixing with this obſcene herd; and with foreign whores, foreign Jews, and foreign ſharpers, in this diſhoneſt ſcramble.

LET me borrow a glaſs from Rome, in which theſe men may ſee the deformity of their conduct.

A GREAT ſtateſman, in a treatiſe of Ethics, puts this Caſe:

A MERCHANT ſails from Alexandria to Rhodes, with a cargo of Corn; of which, on his arrival, he finds the Rhodians in extreme want. At the ſame time he knows, which the Rhodians do not, that many other ſhips, laden with the ſame commodity, are on their voyage to the ſame Port. —— The Queſtion is, Whether he ſhall declare this circumſtance, or ſell his own cargo, in ſilence, at the beſt price he can get?

IF

If he is an ingenuous, honeſt, juſt man, ſays Cicero, he will certainly declare it; for to conceal it would be direct knavery and injuſtice.

Will not Chriſtianity weep, when the conduct of her degenerate ſons is compared with the deciſion of this honeſt Heathen? Muſt ſhe not bluſh at the letters from the Hague, and orders from Amſterdam, forged in England, and, at the eager haſte with which theſe Chriſtians ſeize the lucrative advantages reſulting from the fears of the timorous and unſkilful, raiſed by ſuch infamous expedients?

And where will all this end? For, as ſoon as the proſpect of Peace had ſomewhat ſtilled this ſtorm, in which the innocent were ſhipwrecked that Knaves might ride on its billows in triumph: Have we not ſeen one of the Adepts in theſe myſteries, diſdaining the ſlow arts of fraud and chicanery, attempt, and execute, one of the boldeſt and moſt enormous forgeries, that ever appeared in this country?

And, what is much more to be lamented, have we not ſeen the flower of England burſting every band of honour, and every tie of gratitude, "as threads of tow that have "ſmelled the fire;" crowding with ſhameleſs haſte, and bending with ignominious ſervility, to the new Diſpenſers of Emoluments, as the Babylonians of old to the golden image which Nebuchadnezzar the King had ſet up.

At ſuch a Criſis in the national Character, muſt not Peace be a bleſſed diſpenſation, which drops the curtain on ſcenes of ſuch turpitude, and, by removing the temptation, cuts off all occaſion and opportunity of repeating them?

And now, it is to be hoped, the Legiſlature will find leiſure to ſqueeze theſe upſtart ſpunges, ſwelled with the ſpoils of their Country, to the natural ſize of Citizens of their rank. For ſurely it requires no extraordinary ſagacity, to fall on a method of doing ſo high an act of Juſtice to their country; and, at the ſame time, to turn the current of the ſupplies into ſuch channels, as ſhall protect it from the impure handling of this wretched Crew of Harpies.

For is it not intolerable to obſerve, as many wiſe men, with the deepeſt concern have long done, on the approach of a new Tax, the induſtrious Tradeſmen, the Yeomanry, and the lower Gentry, the Nerves and Sinews of the ſtate, in dutiful obedience to their Sovereign, and moved perhaps by ſome remains of that antiquated Virtue, Patriotiſm, preparing for its arrival; proceeding with the moſt ſerious anxiety in conſidering what can be ſaved, what can be ſpared, retrenching ſomewhat of the figure and appearance their ſituation, in decency, demands; and not without touching perhaps on ſome things,

Queis humana ſibi doleat natura negatis,

rather than the ſtate ſhould ſuſtain detriment from their refuſal or delay; and, at the ſame time, to ſee the gaiety and alertneſs with which theſe wretches are calculating, how many hundreds, how many thouſands, how many tens of thouſands of this ſum, with ſo much difficulty and diſtreſs ſcarce extracted from every branch of the veins of their Country, ſhall be diverted into their Pockets?

WHAT muſt the reſentment of this ſenſible People be, to ſee the national aids, granted, as they truſted, to ſtrengthen and invigorate the exertions of the national power, converted into the nouriſhment of the Botches and Tumours of this country! To ſee the Gentry diſtreſſed and impoveriſhed, Trade cramped and fettered, and the very vitals of the people ſqueezed out, to furniſh the ſtakes in a gaming-houſe.

WHAT a waſte of the Loyalty and confidence of a generous people! and what ignorance, or wantonneſs, in the Miniſters and Financiers, not to know, or to deſpiſe, that great truth, that no where upon earth is the good-will of the people ſo indiſpenſably neceſſary to the Prince, as in this country! for but too many unhappy occaſions have verified Gourville's obſervation, That a King of England, without the Affections of his people, is juſt nothing at all.

BUT a better diſpoſition may ſurely now be expected; and then will the liberal part of our countrymen, who have been unhappily touched with this ſtain, to which they could not be moved by baſeneſs of nature, but were drawn perhaps into this foul vortex by the all powerful force of the general example, feel the remorſe which every generous nature muſt undergo, at this unwary deviation from the paths of honour. And, when they have recollected themſelves, to which the calm of Peace affords at once the motives and the means, and looked round on the company, with which they have debaſed themſelves, mere indignation will ſever them for ever from this vile commerce, and they

will

will return to the honourable Ranks they were born to hold in the community.

THEN will Reaſon and Honour reſume the ſway, and remind them of the various duties reſulting from the high character they have to ſuſtain, as Men, as Engliſhmen, as Gentlemen, as Chriſtians. And when the Root of all Evil is thus extirpated, and the ſcales of Avarice are fallen from their eyes, they will clearly ſee the abſurdity of individuals attempting to found their private happineſs on any thing elſe but the broad baſis of the public welfare. And when they look up to the fountain of honour, emulation will excite them to run, with vigour, the race that God and Nature has ſet before them, and to atone for their late humiliation by higher attainments in the ways of honour; conſcious, as they muſt be, that nothing elſe can recommend them to the notice and approbation of a Prince, who is at once the Rewarder and the Example of every Virtue.

To the fine feelings of this excellent Perſon, to the delicate Sympathy which made him ſhare in the dangers the intrepidity of his forces were inceſſantly hurrying them into, to his juſt diſcernment and commiſeration of the hardſhips the induſtrious and the honeſt laboured under at home, from the inevitable expence of the War, we owe his ready acquieſcence in the terms of Peace, which the events of the War diſpoſed the Enemy to offer; and, to the favour of Providence, its full accompliſhment.

And what is the conduct which Reaſon points out, as fit to be held by us all on this great occaſion? Surely not to litigate the terms of the Peace, wich we cannot alter; but to co-operate with our Sovereign, and, as we hope, with Providence, in diffuſing, to the utmoſt extent, the bleſſings that naturally attend it.

It will well become the ſuperior Ranks, and the more immediate Servants of the Crown, to ſtill all indecent ſquabbles, if ſuch there be, for thoſe Poſts of honour or emolument, to which their Birth or Abilities may intitle them: that no occaſion be given to conſtructions unfavourable to perſons ſo elevated, or to any degrading ſurmiſes, that public ſpirit is yielding to private views, in characters ſo reſpectable: to preſerve their honour and integrity clear and unbroken; that ſo their influence may be the greater and the better on the inferior ranks, which naturally take their colour from them: to ſurround the Throne with the bulwark of Union; declining all conteſt but that glorious one becoming their dignity and loyalty, who ſhall ſerve their country with moſt Zeal and Ability, in the ſtations to which the wiſdom of the Sovereign may call them.

It will become us all to let our Reſentments, however excited, ſubſide; and to call off our deſires from objects plainly unattainable, or, if attainable, yet not without a Repetition of thoſe Scenes which Humanity would wiſh to throw a perpetual veil over.

And, when our minds are thus compoſed and ſedate, it will not be amiſs to bring our Poſſeſſions to a ſtrict examination at the Bar of Reaſon: but let it not be cold, abſtracted Reaſon, but human Reaſon, tempered, as it ever is, when unperverted, with the ſoft affections of Love and Benevolence. And then, if we find any Exceſs beyond what has deſcended to us by fair inheritance, or what we may have gained in the ways of prudence and honour, this Sovereign Directreſs will ſhew us the propriety of ſearching, with the moſt ſcrupulous diligence, the crowd of the injured, if peradventure we may find the unfortunate individual to whom it juſtly belongs; or, if this ſhould be impoſſible, yet let not the accurſed thing cleave to us, but let us pay it to thoſe, whom Providence has appointed the legitimate Receivers in ſuch Caſes, and let Charity ſanctify what Avarice had polluted.

A quiet Submiſſion to Government, and a patient enduring the Burdens the War has brought on us, will become the lower ranks, much better ſurely than Strife and Clamour, which have been thought, even when moſt unreaſonable, to have thrown many able Miniſters off their bias, and to have defeated the wiſeſt meaſures planned for the public utility. The events of the War have been ſo great and ſo frequent, that they have raiſed in them an inſatiable Curioſity, which has degenerated into an unprofitable pragmatical ſpirit; and this has been fed with the Traſh of political Scribblers, till the meaneſt of the people, to their

no ſmall vexation, have erected themſelves into judges of thoſe meaſures it is impoſſible they ſhould underſtand.

LET it be one of the happy fruits of the Peace, to call off the attention of this uſeful order from " theſe great " matters, which are too high for them;" and to reſtore them to a ſober and diligent application to the duties of their reſpective profeſſions. Which ſure it were not difficult to do, would they but conſider how abſurd it muſt be in thoſe who cannot promote, to obſtruct the motions of their Superiors; to clog and hang on the wheels of Government, which, even when unimpeded, muſt move but heavily, loaded, as they are, with the weight of the public Debt; and how improvident to increaſe the difficulties, and, of conſequence, the expence of adminiſtration, which they themſelves muſt pay.

AND, when the Nation is thus returned to its old good nature, its old good humour, and its old good manners, Peace will unfold its bleſſings in their genuine proportions, and all will diſcern and confeſs its excellence.

AND, when Reaſon has thus " had her perfect work," then ſhall the " ſun of righteouſneſs ariſe in our hearts," and ſhed its benign influence, 'till the motions of humanity are improved into Chriſtian Charity; operating in the moral world, as the great Luminary gilds and ſerenes the face of Nature after a ſtorm. And then ſhall we feel the high complacency ariſing from the mutual contemplation of each others improvements, while all are zealous to compleat the

character

character of good men and good Subjects, by the neceſſary addition of the Chriſtian Graces. Then ſhall Gratitude kindle its holy flame in minds ſo well ordered; and the Experience of diſpenſations ſo gracious will raiſe an humble confidence, and a reaſonable hope, that the ſupreme Providence will hear the prayer (in which may all be qualified to join!) that the welfare and proſperity of a brave, an honeſt, and a faithful people, may be perpetual.

FINIS.